

Geyser High School's JMG Class Competes in Their Very Own Amazing Race



On March 19th, 2008 Geyser's seniors competed in their own "Amazing Race". Similar to the TV Reality Series *Amazing Race*, students had places to go, people to see and things to accomplish. It all started when Career Specialist, Seely Daniels, received her first Leadership magazine as the new JMG Teacher for Geyser HS. In the magazine was an article about senior survivor week. She thought it would be interesting to come up with a senior amazing race; where her JMG class would have a chance to use what they had learned throughout the year. She started the project by setting goals and a deadline of when and where she would like the race to take place. She passed it by the Superintendent and staff at Geyser to get a feel for what the reactions would be and all was positive. She set the date for March 19th, and had a lot to accomplish before that time.



Seely's task list included; preparing students for filling out job applications, appropriate attire for a job interview, completing college applications, reading road maps and using public transportation; she

also had to find businesses and colleges that would climb on board and participate for the benefit of her JMG seniors. Seely contacted businesses in Great Falls, since that was the closest town with a larger population than Geyser's 150, give or take. Many of the businesses that she encountered were more than willing to help out and very positive. Career Quest was on board for job interviews and looking over job applications; Great Falls Job Service for typing, data entry, 10-key tests and interviews; Great Falls Pre-Release Transition Center to give students an idea of how making the wrong decisions would affect them; MSU Great Falls and Great Falls COT on board for campus visits, scavenger hunts, financial aid information and professor visits. Seely was amazed that all it took was a call to the businesses and colleges to see if they would be interested in participating and they took off running with the idea; arranging interviews, getting students to give tours, staff to answer questions, packets of job interview and application do's and don'ts, making participant packets with pencils, iPod covers, backpacks, Frisbees and wonderful incentives. They were simply AMAZING!

Once the businesses and colleges were on board she needed to figure out transportation and timing. Being the organized somewhat OCD person that she is; she worked everything down to the last minute of when students needed to be done with one place so they could catch the bus to the next location. Seely worked out scenarios so that she would have an idea of what if's and if not's. Great Falls public transit station was contacted. They were wonderful in helping locate different places along their travel routes where students could get additional information and educational experiences for "detours" and "road blocks". They sent each student a bus route map and times so that they could go over how to read and interpret the information ahead of time; as well as all day bus passes so that students could ride the busses all day long for one rate.



After coordinating all of this, Seely needed to come up with different obstacles for the students, determine what teams they were on, the routes they were taking so no two teams were at the same place at the same time, and chaperones for each team. Obstacles that were set up were: Road blocks in which teams could send other teams after objects; Detours, where teams could send other teams to different locations; Cautions, where both team members had to complete the objective; and U-turns, where teams could make both team members of another team complete the objective. Each team was comprised of two team members and a chaperone (the joy of only having 8 seniors in the class). Each team had to take public transportation to each location and complete the obstacle they were given by a different team before they could complete the next leg of the race.

Seniors came away from the race knowing how they ranked on typing, data entry and 10 key tests, knowing more about how to fill out various applications, receiving feedback on interviews and what they could do to improve and what they did well on; knowing more about college life and what was expected and knowing what was out there for them if they strayed along the wrong path.

Seely stated that the joyful part of this is that teams knew who they were before hand and had already decided on how they were going to "compete" against others and what effort they were going to put forth; to some it was a very competitive thing, for others not so much but ended up being "dog eat dog" at the end of the day. All in all Geyser's 1st Senior Amazing Race, was an incredible success and a lot of fun for all of those who participated.

